



ARMENIA

A FRESH VIEW OF A FORGOTTEN LAND
MONDAY 27 APRIL TO TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015

CLARE FORD-WILLE AND PETER SHAHBENDARIAN

Art Historian Clare Ford-Wille and her husband, Armenian expert Peter Shahbendarian, lead a deeply respectful and thorough journey through a wealth of sacred sites uncovering the many rich layers of Armenia's ancient and exotic heritage. A small country uncomfortably balanced between East and West, and fought over by empires -Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Seljuks, Mongols, Russians and Ottomans- Armenia, nevertheless, tenaciously protected and preserved its identity as the first country to establish Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD, in the earliest years of Christian hegemony. Though they contributed enormously to the infrastructure and finances of the mighty Ottoman Empire, Armenians were persecuted. Eventually and eventfully, an independent Republic emerged in 1991.

Land-locked on a central plateau 5,500 feet above sea-level, its regal landscape of mountains and lakes is spectacular. Clare and Peter will skilfully lead the way in and out of ancient towns and villages with poignant visits to still-vibrant monastic communities protected by World Heritage designation. Armenia's magnificent early Hellenistic temple, monastic architecture, rock-hewn churches and stone crosses, together with priceless manuscripts and works of art, will present surprises and wonders to behold.

COST £3355 members, £3415 non-members, £400 single room supplement, £300 deposit, includes flights London-Yerevan-London (with short stopovers), eight nights accommodation, all breakfasts, all lunches, all dinners with wine, tuition from Clare Ford-Wille and Peter Shahbendarian, the services of a local tour manager, all entrance fees, all private minibus travel during the tour, all gratuities, VAT.

INSCAPE CULTURAL STUDY SOCIETY

MONDAY 27 APRIL

- 09:50 Depart London Heathrow (1h15min stop-over in Paris)
- 19:55 Arrive Yerevan, minibus to Royal Tulip Grand Hotel, check-in
- 21:30 Light dinner at the hotel

TUESDAY 28 APRIL

- 09:00 Introductory tour of Yerevan
- 10:00 Visit the Matenadaran (depository of ancient manuscripts)
- 11:45 Visit Paradjanov House and Museum
- 13:30 Lunch at The Club restaurant in Yerevan
- 15:00 Visit the National Art Gallery
- 19:30 Dinner at Provence restaurant in Yerevan

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL

- 09:00 Visit Gatoghige chapel
- 11:00 Visit National History Museum
- 13:00 Lunch at Yerevan Pandok restaurant, free afternoon in Yerevan
- 19:00 Dinner at Tumayan Pandok restaurant

THURSDAY 30 APRIL

- 09:00 Check out of Royal Tulip Grand Hotel and depart for Lake Sevan
- 11:00 Visit church at Lake Sevan
- 12:00 Continue to Dilijan and visit Dilijan
- 13:15 Lunch at Getap restaurant in Dilijan
- 14:30 Visit Goshavank Monastery
- 16:30 Visit Haghartsin Monastery
- 18:30 Check into Dilijan Resort Hotel, Dilijan
- 19:30 Dinner at Hotel

FRIDAY 1 MAY

- 08:30 Depart Dilijan and visit Haghpat and Sanahin Monasteries
- 13:30 Lunch at local restaurant in Alaverdi
- 14:45 Travel back to Yerevan, visiting Amberd Fortress en route
- 18:45 Check in to Royal Tulip Grand Hotel, Yerevan
- 19:45 Dinner at Salon restaurant in Yerevan

SATURDAY 2 MAY

- 09:00 Depart Yerevan
- 10:00 Visit rock-carved churches at Geghard with choral performance
- 12:00 Visit Hellenistic Temple of Garni
- 13:15 Lunch at a private house in Garni, with demonstration of Armenian traditional bread-making (lavash)
- 14:30 Return to Yerevan
- 15:30 Visit the Genocide memorial and Museum
- 19:00 Dinner at Caucasus restaurant

SUNDAY 3 MAY

- 08:30 Depart for Etchmiadsin, visit St. Hripsimeh Church, St. Gayaneh Church and Holy See en route
- 11:00 Visit Etchmiadsin Cathedral and see the main liturgy
- 12:45 Lunch in Echmiadsin at Miasnutyan Khach Children's Art Centre
- 14:00 Visit ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral
- 15:30 Visit the Vernissage (craft market)
- 19:00 Dinner at Ararat restaurant

MONDAY 4 MAY

- 08:30 Depart for Khor Virab and visit Monastery
- 11:00 Continue to the region of Vayots Dzor and visit the church of Areni
- 13:00 Lunch at restaurant situated in a natural cave en route to Noravank
- 14:30 Visit Noravank monastery
- 16:00 Return to Yerevan
- 19:30 Dinner at Yerevan Tavern restaurant

TUESDAY 5 MAY

- Early breakfast at hotel, minibus to Airport
- 08:46 Depart Yerevan (1h35min stop-over in Paris)
- 13:48 Arrive London Heathrow

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